



# Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR659

Site Name: Oak Creek A

Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s)

Historic ☒

Unknown ☐

Brief Description:

Mid 18th-Early 19th century possible tenant house site

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.8789 Longitude -76.7653

Elevation m Site slope 0-10%

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site ☒

Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Black Branch

#### Saltwater

Ocean ☐

Estuary/tidal river ☐

Tidewater/marsh ☐

Spring ☐

Minimum distance to water is 610 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river ☒

Swamp ☐

Lake or pond ☐

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site ☐

Woodland site ☐

Archaic site ☐

MD Adena ☐

Early archaic ☐

Early woodland ☐

Middle archaic ☐

Mid. woodland ☐

Late archaic ☐

Late woodland ☐

Unknown prehistoric context ☐

Contact period site ☐

ca. 1630 - 1675 ☐

ca. 1675 - 1720 ☐

ca. 1720 - 1780 ☒

ca. 1780 - 1820 ☒

Unknown historic context ☐

Unknown context ☐

ca. 1820 - 1860 ☐

ca. 1860 - 1900 ☐

ca. 1900 - 1930 ☐

Post 1930 ☐

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American ☐

African American ☐

Anglo-American ☒

Hispanic ☐

Asian American ☐

Unknown ☐

Other ☐

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

Multi-component ☐

Misc. ceremonial ☐

Village ☐

Rock art ☐

Hamlet ☐

Shell midden ☐

Base camp ☐

STU/lithic scatter ☐

Rockshelter/cave ☐

Quarry/extraction ☐

Earthen mound ☐

Fish weir ☐

Cairn ☐

Production area ☐

Burial area ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

### Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural ☒

#### Domestic

Homestead ☒

Farmstead ☐

Mansion ☐

Plantation ☐

Row/townhome ☐

Cellar ☐

Privy ☐

#### Industrial

Mining-related ☐

Quarry-related ☐

Mill ☐

Black/metalsmith ☐

Furnace/forge ☐

Other ☐

#### Transportation

Canal-related ☐

Road/railroad ☐

Wharf/landing ☐

Maritime-related ☐

Bridge ☐

Ford ☐

#### Educational

#### Commercial

Trading post ☐

Store ☐

Tavern/inn ☐

#### Military

Battlefield ☐

Fortification ☐

Encampment ☐

#### Townsite

#### Religious

Church/mtg house ☐

Ch support bldg ☐

#### Burial area

Cemetery ☐

Sepulchre ☐

Isolated burial ☐

Bldg or foundation ☒

Possible Structure ☒

Post-in-ground ☐

Frame-built ☐

Masonry ☐

Other structure ☐

#### Slave related

#### Non-domestic agri

#### Recreational

Midden/dump ☐

Artifact scatter ☒

Spring or well ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☒

tenant house?

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken ☐

Flotation samples taken ☐

Other samples taken ☐

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken ☒

Flotation samples taken ☒

Other samples taken ☐



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types	
Clovis	<input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text"/>
Guilford	<input type="text"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text"/>
Koens-Crispin	<input type="text"/>
Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>
Susquehanna	<input type="text"/>
Vernon	<input type="text"/>
Piscataway	<input type="text"/>
Calvert	<input type="text"/>
Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>
Madison/Potomac	<input type="text"/>
Levanna	<input type="text"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguanan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>		
				Potomac Cr	<input type="text"/>		

## Historic Sherd Types

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="text"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="text"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="text"/>	Jackfield	<input type="text"/>	Tin Glazed	6	English Brown	<input type="text"/>
Borderware	<input type="text"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text"/>	Whiteware	1	Eng Dry-bodie	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	1	North Devon	<input type="text"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	3	Nottingham	<input type="text"/>
Creamware	3	Pearlware	<input type="text"/>			Rhenish	<input type="text"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	9

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts	
Flaked stone	16
Ground stone	<input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>
Other fired clay	<input type="text"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Modified faunal	<input type="text"/>
Unmod faunal	<input type="text"/>
Oyster shell	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

## Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input type="text"/>	Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>		

## Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="text"/>
Jasper	<input type="text"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="text"/>
Chert	<input type="text"/>	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="text"/>	Argilite	<input type="text"/>
Quartz	<input type="text"/>	Steatite	<input type="text"/>
Quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sandstone	<input type="text"/>
European flint	<input type="text"/>	Basalt	<input type="text"/>
Unknown	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>

☐ Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts	
Pottery (all)	38
Glass (all)	68
Architectural	389
Furniture	<input type="text"/>
Arms	1
Clothing	<input type="text"/>
Personal items	<input type="text"/>
Tobacco related	3
Activity item(s)	<input type="text"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Misc. kitchen	1
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Misc.	79
Other	<input type="text"/>

## Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="text"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Const feature	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Foundation	<input type="text"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="text"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="text"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="text"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="text"/>	Earthworks	<input type="text"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="text"/>	Planting feature	<input type="text"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="text"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="text"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="text"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability

☐ Additional radiocarbon results available



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Unknown ☐

## External Samples/Data:

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Collection curated at MAC

## Summary Description:

The Oak Creek A Site (18PR659) is the archeological remains of a mid 18th to early 19th century domestic occupation north of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. The site is thought to possibly be the remains of a tenant occupation that predates the occupation of the land by the 19th century Bowieville plantation. The site is situated on a pronounced knoll surrounded by upland flat terrain. At the time of the site's discovery, the location was a former agricultural field overgrown with tall weeds such as goldenrod. Soils at the site are Collington and Wist sandy loams, with some Shrewsbury loam.

Site 18PR659 is situated nearly 1000 meters southwest of the historic Bowieville Mansion (MHP# PG-74A-18), the manor house of the 19th century Bowie family plantation. The builder of Bowieville was Mary Mackall Bowie, daughter of Maryland Governor Robert Bowie. Mary M. Bowie was born in 1776, was married twice, and was also widowed twice. She was first married to Turner Wootton from 1794 until his death in 1796. Together they had one son, William Turner Wootton. She then married her cousin, Thomas Contee Bowie, in 1800. He died thirteen years later in 1813. Mary M. Bowie and Thomas Contee Bowie had several children together.

In 1815, Governor Robert Bowie was awarded the deed for 329 acres he bought from a Thomas Buchanan in 1807. Buchanan was the trustee appointed by the Prince George's Circuit Court in the Chancery cause over the estate of one Dr. Robert Pottinger. The land was described as, "All that dwelling plantation of the said Robert Pottinger containing 275 acres and 54 acres vacant land". It is not known where on this plantation Dr. Pottinger resided. It may have been in the vicinity of 18PR659 or it was possibly on a different portion of the estate acquired by someone else. In 1818, Governor Bowie devised the 275 acres to his daughter Mary M. Bowie.

The same year Mary M. Bowie inherited Dr. Pottinger's land from her father she bought the adjacent property from her son, William Turner Wootton. This conveyance consisted of 510.25 acres out of various tracts that William had inherited from the paternal side of his family. By combining the tracts she received from her father and son, Mary M. Bowie created an 853 acre plantation she called "Bowieville". Soon after consolidating the properties, she began construction of an extravagant mansion on that portion of the land she bought from her son. Little is known about whether the various parcels that made up Bowieville were actually occupied by their various owners, with the exception of Dr. Pottinger. It is likely that tenant farmers lived on some of the parcels.

The Bowieville plantation did not remain in operation for long, for Mary M. Bowie died unexpectedly in 1826. The plantation was left to her children and husband, Thomas Contee Bowie. The 1828 tax list for Collington and Western Branch Hundreds in Prince George's County lists the heirs of Mary M. Bowie as having possession of a total of 849 acres.

Mary M. Bowie's son, Robert Bowie of Cedar Hill, was hard pressed to settle his mother's accounts, forcing him to sell much of her personal property. This property included numerous slaves living on the plantation. Robert Bowie also became indebted to many neighbors and family members by trying to buy his sister's portions of Bowieville, forcing him to mortgage the property several times. In 1836, Robert Bowie was forced to sell portions of his real estate holdings in order to raise enough funds to meet his debts. In 1846, a Chancery Court cause was brought against him by Upton and Brooke Beall. Exhibits summoned in the cause included a confirmation survey by Robert Young on a 115 acre tract of Bowieville conveyed to Robert C. Brooke by Robert Bowie in 1836. The result of the Chancery cause was a court decree requiring the sale of the remainder of the Bowieville plantation.

In 1849, William J. Berry and his wife, Sarah E. Berry, purchased "Bowieville" from Thomas L. Alexander, Trustee, appointed in the Chancery cause. William J. Berry was a prominent property owner in the area. His land holdings included the neighboring Chelsea plantation. In his 1866 will, William J. Berry bequeathed the Bowieville plantation (where William was living at the time of his death) to his son Jeremiah Berry. Before his father's death, Jeremiah Berry married Catherine Boggs of Georgetown. In 1876, as a means of securing the mansion and land in his wife's name, Jeremiah Berry conveyed 350 acres to Ellen M. Boggs, who in turn immediately conveyed it as a gift to her daughter, Catherine Boggs Berry. Jeremiah Berry also conveyed 8 acres to the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in 1878 and 93 acres to James R. Herbert in 1879.

In 1907, Catherine (or Katherine) Berry conveyed 44 acres of "Bowieville", known as "Church Lot", to Irving L. Carrick. The remainder of this property was retained by Catherine Boggs Berry until 1927, when she bequeathed it to her youngest daughter, Mary (Berry) Lawrence. Soon after receiving Bowieville, Mary B. Lawrence sold another 105 acres to Irving L. Carrick. In 1933, Mary B. Lawrence sold a 216 acre tract, known as "the back farm of Bowieville" to Dr. Arthur Keene Meloy. She died later in 1933, at which time she bequeathed the remaining 220 acres of her property to her cousin, Francis Fairfax Roberts. Francis F. Roberts only held the property for five years before conveying it to Harold O. Knapp and his wife, Mary Page Knapp in 1935. The Knapps are believed to have occupied the site until sometime in the 1960s.

By the late 20th century, many of the portions of the Bowieville tract that had been sold off during the 19th and early 20th century were being re-assembled into a development tract. Eventually, a 925 acre parcel (including the site location) was assembled and plans were proposed to construct a combined golf course and residential development on much of the former Bowieville plantation lands. Survey of the 925 acre Oak Creek Club property began in 1999, due to the developers' application for various required permits. Specific to Site 18PR659, Phase I work in the vicinity did not begin until 2004, when the property developers sought a wetland permit through the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment, which ultimately triggered Section 106 review of the country club plans and an eventual Phase II examination of the site.

Phase I work in 2004 entailed the excavation of nearly 3,500 shovel test pits placed at 15.2 m (50 ft) intervals, nine of which led to the discovery of 18PR659. The 9 positive shovel tests defined a domestic occupation scattered over an area roughly 61 X 76 m (200 X 250 ft) in extent. A total of 24 artifacts were recovered. Most artifacts were found on the surface with a few found in plowzone soils. Artifact recovery consisted of brick fragments, olive bottle glass, blue milky container glass, 1 sherd of brown stoneware, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware sherd (molded-barley pattern), porcelain, unidentified earthenware, oyster shell, and unidentified lithic items. The items were thought to represent an artifact scatter connected with early historic waste disposal. This interpretation was supported by the low density of artifacts recovered and the close proximity of a nearby road. Because of its antiquity of some of the items and potential significance, it was recommended that the site undergo Phase II testing.

Phase II work was carried out at 18PR659 later in 2004. Phase II work entailed the excavation of 140 STPs spaced apart at 18.3, 9.1, and 4.6 m (60, 30, and 15 ft) intervals. STPs were excavated manually, using spade shovels and trowels. The STPs were also excavated stratigraphically in order to maintain vertical control over the artifacts recovered. The soils removed were dry-screened in the field using hardware cloth. Cultural materials recovered during the screening



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Unknown ☐

process were retained for analysis and bagged according to provenience (i.e. by site number, STP coordinate, and stratigraphic or feature designation). The resulting material recovery was plotted on a field map in order to display the distribution of artifacts. A soil profile was also prepared on a standardized form for each STP to document soil characteristics, strata depths, and artifacts recovered per stratum. Soils were described by texture and color using standard methods and nomenclature.

Just less than half of the STPs produced positive artifact recoveries. Based on these positive STP locations, Site 18PR659 was estimated to have a dimension of 91.4 m (300 ft) north-south and 82.3 m (270 ft) east-west. The greatest concentration of artifacts occurred in the northwestern portion of this site area. Based on the nature and density of artifacts recovered within the site area, five formal test units were excavated. Four of these units were excavated in the northwestern artifact concentration and one was placed in the southern part of the site.

Test units were 91 cm square and were excavated manually, using flat shovels and trowels. These units were also excavated stratigraphically in order to maintain control over the vertical provenience of artifacts recovered. Selected strata in excess of 7.62 cm (3 in) were further excavated by arbitrary levels, which generally ranged in thickness from 5.08 to 10.16 cm (2 to 4 in). All excavated, non-feature soils were dry-screened in the field using hardware mesh. In the case of deeply excavated units (where safety became a concern), exploratory windows were initiated in validating the presence of subsoil. A standard report form was completed for each excavated stratum or arbitrary level within a stratum per test unit. As with shovel testing, soil characteristics, stratum depths and recovered cultural materials were documented on these forms. Included in the documentation of test unit soils was the preparation of a hand-drawn soil profile, which presented a more accurate view of the stratigraphy encountered. Only one profile was prepared for each test unit excavated and generally involved the wall with the clearest and most representative stratigraphy. Black and white photography was also used to document profiles.

Special excavation and documentation procedures were followed when possible cultural features were thought to have been identified within test units. Within reason, the overall goal was to expose the horizontal and vertical extent of these features. During the handling of potential features, a thorough documentation process was employed and included plan view hand-drawn sketches followed by photographs. In a few instances, soil samples were retained for possible examination in the laboratory. These samples were to be water-screened through 1/16 inch hardware mesh if a feature designation was made.

In general, the artifacts recovered from the Phase II STPs and test units at 18PR659 appeared to have an eighteenth century temporal affiliation. In total, sixteen prehistoric, 547 historic, and 8 modern materials were recovered. The site area was likely occupied between 1740 and 1780, given the minor presence of Whieldon, creamware, and whiteware ceramics. The assemblage suggests that the site represents a residence that pre-dates the occupation of the area by the Bowie family. These interpretations were corroborated by a small artifact scatter composed of domestic and architecture-related materials. No intact cultural features were encountered, so any structure that was present would have been of modest construction and occupied for only a short duration. Those occupying the site area were likely of modest socio-economic status, such as a yeoman or tenant farmer.

The Phase II artifact assemblage consisted of 389 architectural artifacts (including 328 pieces of brick, 1 piece of mortar, 3 handwrought nails, and 57 unidentifiable nails), 106 kitchen-related artifacts (including 37 ceramic sherds, 68 container glass fragments, and a piece of oyster shell), 3 tobacco-related artifacts (kaolin pipe stem and bowl fragments), 1 arms object (a chert gun spall), 56 miscellaneous objects (including 16 chunks of coal, 8 modern objects, and 32 other items), 1 Halifax point and 15 other prehistoric artifacts. The ceramic sherd assemblage consisted of English delftware (6 sherds), Buckley (1), miscellaneous earthenware (2), Whieldonware (1), other creamware (2), porcelain (3), whiteware (1), redware (7), white salt-glazed stoneware (8), American blue and gray stoneware (1), and miscellaneous stoneware (5 sherds).

Site 18PR580 appears to be the remains of the mid 18th to early 19th century farmstead of occupants with modest socio-economic status. The site may be associated with a tenant farmer and, based on these conclusions the site would have value to researchers. However, the potential of the site was found lacking due to poor stratigraphic integrity and the absence of intact cultural features (particularly in the form of buried artifact deposits). The extensive history of agriculture and natural erosional processes dramatically impacted the yards connected with this historic residence, leaving its soils completely disturbed and laden with mixed artifacts. Based on this information, Site 18PR659 was not thought to be a significant archeological resource or offer additional research value to Prince George's County or greater Maryland beyond that already explored during the 2004 investigation. Site 18PR659 was not thought to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002244, Site Files